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BENTLEY-WITH-ASKSEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.




ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

FOR
1925

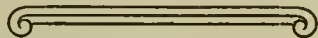
BY
A. B. DUNNE.

B.Sc., M.B., B.C., University of London,
D.P.H. London, &c.



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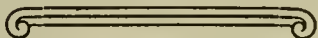
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Doncaster :

CHRONICLE CO., LTD., PRINTERS AND BOOKBINDERS, SCOT LANE



Bentley-with-Arksey Urban District Council.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the General Order of the Minister of Health's Circular 648 (England), dated December 10th, 1925, relating to the contents and arrangement of the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1925, I beg to present my Annual Report.

Prior to the war it was the practice of Medical Officers of Health to give a full account of the social conditions and sanitary circumstances of their Districts.

In 1915 the Local Government Board decided—owing to the exigencies of the War—that the Medical Officer of Health should confine the Report to such facts as were necessary for a continuous record of the Vital Statistics of the District.

The Minister of Health on December 28th, 1921, in his Circular 269, directed that Annual Reports of a full and detailed character—called Survey Reports—would be required at intervals of five years.

This year's Report is a Survey one. The arrangement of the Report follows on the lines as laid down in the Appendix of the Minister's Circular.

Certain information contained therein has had to be supplied me by various individuals, namely, the Clerk, Surveyor, and Accountant of the Council, the Clerk of the Guardians, the Vaccination Officer, and the County Medical Officer, as well as other ladies and gentlemen, to all of whom I wish to express my thanks for their assistance.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. B. DUNNE,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

BENTLEY,

March 1st, 1926.

Bentley-with-Arksey Urban District Council.

THE SURVEY REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for 1925.

Section 1.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Area of the District (land and water) is 5,128 Acres.

The Census Population taken on June 19, 1921, was 12,941, consisting of 6,702 Males and 6,239 Females, comprising 2,697 Private Families occupying 2,519 Houses. The persons per inhabited house were 5.14. There were 60 uninhabited houses.

The Registrar-General's estimate for the mid-year population, 1925, is 14,940. The Rateable Value is £97,801 10s. 0d., and the sum represented by a penny rate was £407 10s. 1d.

The chief occupation is Coal Mining, the Bentley Colliery, which is situated in the District, employing most of the miners.

The work is regular and remuneration good. This is reflected in the general appearance of comfort and well-being of the mine worker and his dependants. There are also a number of workers employed in the Plant Works of the L. and N.E.R. at Doncaster. There are quite a number employed in farming.

The District was constituted on April 1st, 1911.

The District is level, except on its Western boundary near Roman Ridge, the great portion being not more than 25ft. above Ordnance Datum.

The soil is loamy, clay and running sand and limestone on the west.

There has been a large area of the district let down by colliery working, and pumping has had to be undertaken to prevent flooding.

The Doncaster and Selby Main Road traverses the District from South to North, and the Great North Road traverses the Western side of the District from S.E. to N.W. These are "A" roads, and are maintained by the County Council.

The District is in the administrative County of the West Riding of Yorkshire, the Parliamentary Division, Poor Law Union, and Archdeaconry of Doncaster, the Diocese of Sheffield, and the Petty Sessional Division of Lower Strafforth and Tickhill.

Besides the ancient Church of All Saints' at Arksey, there are the modern Churches of St. Peter in Bentley, and the new Church in Victoria Road, built of brick in the Italian style of architecture. There is a large Wesleyan Church, as well as the Methodist and Baptist ones.

There is a Cemetery of 6.0 Acres off Arksey Lane. It was laid out for this purpose in 1921. There is ample provision for future burials, as the area in use is $2\frac{3}{4}$ acres.

There is one large Cinema Theatre, and the Co-operative Society has a large hall for public gatherings.

The Central Recreation Ground of 20 acres was opened in September, 1923, and was the outcome of the Miners' Welfare Scheme. It is maintained by the Council, is situated at the centre of the district, and has been provided with Band Stand, Tennis Courts, Paddling Pools, Swings, etc.

The L. and N.E. Railway main line traverses the District, with a passenger and goods station at Arksey, and a good station in Bentley Road.

The Doncaster Corporation Trams run through the Centre of the District as far as the new Colliery Village, and privately maintained Motor 'Buses give a good service between Toll Bar and Doncaster.

From the sinking of the Bentley Colliery in 1905 dates the change from an agricultural parish to a busy mining centre. In 1908 the Colliery Company laid out the New Village of 802 houses on a site of 75 acres—or about 11 to the acre. The plan was blocks of 6 houses in streets—on a rectilinear plan. There are five or six room houses, with bath and w.c. Water is laid on. This village was pioneer of town-planning in Bentley.

The Council is represented in the Doncaster Regional Town-Planning Committee.

In 1925 the Royal Commission on Colliery Subsidence visited the District. This subsidence has added very materially to the difficulties in maintaining the efficiency of the sewers, as all the sewage has to be pumped to the Sewerage Outfall Works.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

The Births in 1925 were 403, or 47 more than in the previous year. This is equal to an Annual Birth Rate of 26.9 per 1,000, or 2.3 per 1,000 more than in 1924.

Of the Legitimate Births 217 were males and 169 females.

The Illegitimate Births were 8 males and 9 females.

The Birth Rate of England and Wales was 18.3 per 1,000.

BIRTH RATE, 1916—1925.

Year.	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Birth Rate per 1,000	34.2	29.7	22.2	25.6	31.9	30.7	28.2	26.9	24.6	26.9
No. of Births ...	405	374	308	357	444	409	386	377	356	403

DEATHS.

The Deaths in 1925 were 156, or 31 more than in the previous year. This is equal to an annual crude Death Rate of 10.4 per 1,000.

The Registrar-General has this year for the first time supplied the standardising factor (1.184) for correcting the Death Rate of the District. The Standardized Death Rate is 12.3.

The male deaths were 90, and the female 66.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 12.2 per 1,000.

DEATH RATE, 1916—1925.

Year.	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Death Rate per 1,000	9.1	11.9	14.9	10.6	9.5	9.1	8.9	10.2	8.6	*12.3
No. of Deaths...	100	135	185	142	133	121	122	143	125	156

* Standardized Death Rate.

DEATHS FROM THE SEVEN PRINCIPAL ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

1. Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
2. Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
3. Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
4. Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
5. Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
6. Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
7. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total ...							11

or 4 more than in 1924, and equal to an annual Zymotic Death Rate of 0.7 per 1,000, as compared with 0.4 in the previous year.

The Death Rate for Diarrhœal Diseases (under 2 years of age) per 1,000 Births is 4.9.

That of England and Wales is 8.4.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System			
(males 4, females 6)	...	...	10
2. Other Tuberculous Diseases.			
(males Nil, females 1)	...	...	1
			—
Total	...	...	11
			—

Equal to an Annual Death Rate of 0.7 per 1,000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

In 1925 33 Infants (22 male and 11 female) died under one year of age.

The corresponding figures in 1924 were 21 males and 12 females.

There were no deaths of illegitimate children.

The Infantile Mortality is equal to a rate of 81.8 per 1,000 Births.

That of England and Wales was 75.0.

INFANTILE MORTALTY, 1916—1925.

Year.	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births ...	96.4	93.5	110.3	109.2	90.9	97.7	77.7	74.2	92.6	81.8
No. of Deaths...	35	35	34	39	40	40	3	28	33	33

Most of the Deaths fall into three main groups, as follows:—

Premature Birth, Congenital Malformation, etc., 15; Respiratory Diseases, 12; and Gastro-Intestinal Diseases, 3.

The amount of Poor Law Relief disbursed in the Urban District was £4,268 4s. 6d.

Section 2.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDIZED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

1.—TUBERCULOSIS.

Four cases were notified to me in Form C. as having been admitted to the West Riding County Council Sanatoria. Three were admitted to the Middleton-in-Wharfedale Sanatorium, and one to Dean Head Sanatorium.

The County Council maintain a Dispensary at 20 Christ Church Road, Doncaster, which is the Headquarters of the Tuberculosis Officer for the District and his Staff.

Patients are seen on Mondays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and on Thursdays at 10 a.m.

The County Council have recently acquired Crookhill Hall, standing in a 90 Acre Park, in the Parish of Conisborough Parks, as a Sanatorium, so it is reported, for advanced cases. This Sanatorium has not yet been opened. There is a Tuberculosis Care Committee working in conjunction with the Red Cross, which makes grants of clothing to suitable cases on entering Sanatorium.

2.—MATERNITY.

There is no Maternity Hospital in the District.

Difficult cases requiring special surgical attention have been received at the Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

The West Riding County Council have arranged for Maternity Cases requiring special care to be received into Nurse Pease's Nursing Home, Edenfield, Doncaster.

3.—FEVER HOSPITAL.

The Council is a constituent member of the Doncaster and Mexborough Joint Hospital Board.

The Hospital is conveniently situated on an elevated and healthy site at Conisborough Common. Seventy-eight beds are provided for Diphtheria, Scarlet, Enteric and Cerebro Spinal Fever Cases.

Accommodation for 25 Smallpox Patients is provided in another building—some distance away from the main hospital. A Motor Ambulance is provided for the removal of ordinary infectious cases, and another is reserved for the removal of Small-pox cases.

There is a Steam Disinfecting Apparatus at the Hospital.

OTHER HOSPITALS.

Medical, Surgical and Accident Cases are admitted to the Doncaster Royal Infirmary, and at the General and Special Hospitals at Leeds and Sheffield—all these Hospitals are maintained on a voluntary basis.

The Doncaster Royal Infirmary is now being rebuilt on a new site on the Thorne Road, Doncaster, and an appeal is being made for the erection of a Hospital for 300 beds.

A new Ophthalmic Department of the Doncaster Royal Infirmary has just been opened.

A Venereal Clinic has been established by the County Council, and is held at the Doncaster Royal Infirmary. Men are seen on Wednesday from 4 to 6 p.m., and on Friday at 11 to 1 p.m., and Women and Children on Monday from 4 to 6 p.m., and on Friday from 4 to 6 p.m.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Ambulance Facilities for Infectious Diseases are provided by the Doncaster and Mexborough Joint Hospital Board. Accident Cases are provided for by an ambulance maintained by the local Colliery, and the Local Authority has a Horse-drawn one for ordinary cases of sickness.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The County Council has established a Mothers' and Babies' Welfare at the Co-operative Society's Hall, in the High Street, where the Medical Officer attends on Wednesdays from 3 to 5 p.m. The average attendance of Mothers with their Infants and Young Children is 61.

The Clinic is much appreciated by the Mothers, many of whom attended with their successive babies.

A Clinic is held at 9 a.m. on Tuesday and Friday by the Nurse for the treatment of minor ailments of School Children.

There is one whole-time Health Visitor, who is responsible for the whole District, except for the Toll Bar Ward, which forms along with the Carcroft Ward of the Adwick-le-Street Urban District Council an area looked after by another whole-time Health Visitor.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

1.—MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

A. B. Dunne, B.A., M.B., B.C., Cambridge University, D.H.P. London. Half of his salary is paid out of the County Fund, and charged to the Exchequer Contribution Account.

The appointment is a part-time one, and is held along with the similar appointment in Bentley-with-Arksey U.D. and the Doncaster R.D. which adjoin. He is not allowed to engage in private practice as a general medical practitioner.

He was appointed in 1911.

2.—SANITARY INSPECTOR.

W. B. Jepson, C.R.S.I. Half of his salary is paid out of the County Fund, and charged to the Exchequer Contribution Account.

The appointment is a whole-time one. He is the officer designated under Housing (Inspection of District Regulations), 1910, and has been appointed the officer under the Public Health (Meat) Order, 1924, to whom notices of slaughter must be sent.

He was appointed 1920.

3.—A Clerk in the Sanitary Inspector's Office.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

The Bentley Mine Workers' Nursing Association provides one trained nurse for the District.

The Association is on a voluntary basis.

MIDWIVES.

There are six Midwives practising in the District, four of whom are trained and two are bona fide.

The County Council are the controlling authority, but any disinfection of Midwives' clothing, etc., is carried out by an officer of the local authority on behalf of the County Council.

CHEMICAL WORK.

Samples of water for analyses are sent as and when required to Mr. Richardson, of Bradford, the County Analyst.

Specimens for Bacteriological Examination are sent by the medical practitioner to the County Bacteriological Laboratory at Wakefield—in special outfits provided by the County Council—and reports are sent both to the Medical Officer of Health and the Medical Practitioner.

The facilities provided are much appreciated.

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE.

*Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890. Adopted by Doncaster R.D.C., but date unknown.

Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890. Parts II., III., IV., and V., November 7th, 1911.

Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907. Parts II., III., V., and VI., and certain sections of Parts IV. and X., August 26th, 1919.

BYELAWS WITH DATE OF ADOPTION.

New Streets and Buildings. 22nd April, 1924.

*Cleansing of Footways and Pavements. 2nd July, 1896.

Prevention of Nuisances. 24th January, 1923.

Common Lodging Houses. 21st September, 1921.

Slaughter Houses. 11th July, 1923.

Offensive Trades. 14th December, 1921.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures. 21st Sept., 1921.

Hackney Carriages, 16th May, 1923.

Public Parks and Pleasure Grounds. 14th December, 1921.

Management of Cemeteries. 29th November, 1922.

*REGULATIONS UNDER DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS ORDERS.

11th June, 1901.

PRIVATE STREET WORKS ACT.

7th November, 1911.

*Byelaws and Regulations adopted by the Doncaster Rural District Council,

Section 3.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The Doncaster Corporation are the Water Authority, and the whole of the District is supplied by them, with the exception of the older houses in Arksey and the outlying hamlets of Almholme, Shaftholme, and Scawthorpe. These are supplied from shallow wells, except at Scawthorpe, where the houses are supplied from a deep well sunk into the limestone. Several miles of new cast iron mains have been laid, varying from 9in. down to 3in. One main comes from the Armthorpe Water Bore, laid under the River Don. The water is an excellent red sandstone water of about 12° of hardness. The other main follows the Bentley Road from the Town. This water is derived from the Corporation's Reservoir at Thrybergh, augmented by that obtained from the Sheffield Corporation's Langsett Reservoir. Both supplies are excellent in quality, and now the main from Armthorpe Borehole is laid no further complaints of water shortage at Tóll Bar and elsewhere should arise, as the supply and the distribution are amply sufficient for all further demands.

The question of supplying the old houses at Arksey is now engaging the attention of the Council. As the main comes quite close to them this water should be substituted for that now obtained from shallow wells.

There has been 160 houses connected to the public supply, which hitherto were supported by wells, during 1921-1925. There are 126 houses still supplied by wells, and 18 houses from private sources.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The River Don forms your Eastern Boundary, and is tidal. Into it flow the Bentley Mill Stream, the Tilts Drain, and the Bentley Ings Drain. The Bentley Mill Stream receives the effluent from the Adwick-le-Street Doncaster Lane Sewage Works before entering your District, and also the effluent from your Arksey Lane Sewage Works.

The bed of the stream has been straightened and embanked, and the dam at the Old Mill removed by the Colliery Company. There has been a great improvement in the flow of the stream.

There have been complaints in former years of the effluent from the Arksey Lane Sewage Works polluting the Mill Stream.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The level nature of the District, and the large and increasing area of the surface which is let down by coal mining entail constant attention to the Sewage and Sewage Disposal Works.

Sewage Disposal is a very serious problem.

There are two Sewage Disposal Systems.

1. The Arksey Lane Works, which were completed in 1907, and as originally designed, consisted of an installation of Septic Tanks, three Rotary Filters, with travelling sprinklers, and land for final treatment.

These works were designed to treat the sewage from Bentley Road Area—Bentley Old Village, the New Colliery Village, and Arksey. Electrically driven Pumping Stations were erected in these localities with rising mains to convey the Sewage to the Outfall Works.

In 1914 the Works were enlarged, and new Pumping Stations in Mill Lane and Bentley Road erected and equipped.

During the past five years the Arksey Lane Works have been overworked, owing to the large number of new houses erected in the Area served by them, and from time to time complaints have been received from the West Riding Rivers Board of the effluent from them.

The Council have laid down a new Pumping Station at Arksey to replace the old underground one. New and enlarged plant has been installed in the New Village Pumping Station. At the Arksey Lane Outfall Works the Surveyor is now completing the erection of the following additional works: — Three 100ft. Diameter Circular Filters with Revolving Distributors, Four new Concrete Liquifying Tanks, Six Concrete Sludge Filters, etc., at a cost of £20,000.

These Works, when complete, should meet all future requirements of the District.

(2) TOLL BAR SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

Situate in Tilts Lane. Were completed in October, 1914, and deal with the Sewage from the houses at Toll Bar and Adwick Lane Area. The sewage is pumped by electrical driven motor, and the effluent runs into the Tilts Drain.

These works are sufficient, but trouble with the electrically-driven pumps occur from time to time.

The Surface Water Drainage is a very difficult problem. Owing to colliery working the surface over a large area has been lowered anything up to 3ft. 9in. O.D., and a large and shallow saucer, so to speak, has formed, which has upset existing surface levels and drainage. The Bentley Colliery Company maintain two powerful pumps—to lift the surface water from this area over the lip of the saucer into the natural channels; by this means the land has been saved from flooding.

The Royal Commission on Colliery Subsidence visited the District in 1925, as this District will present many difficult drainage problems in future when other seams of coal are worked out.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Water Closets	...	...	...	3139
No. of Privies	...	...	...	102
No. of Pail Closets	...	...	...	7
No. of W.C.'s constructed for New Houses...				158
No. of Privies converted into W.C.	...	...		60

The Council have proceeded on a definite plan of conversion. The Sanitary Inspector reports from time to time as to the ones which urgently require converting, and the Council allocate a definite amount each half year, and make grants up to half the estimated cost of conversion.

The Council contributed £436 15s. 4d. towards the 60 converted in the Bentley Road Area in 1925. All here are now converted. There still remain 97 privies with covered middens, and 17 with open middens in the District.

I may perhaps glance back at the state of affairs in 1911—when the Council came into existence. Then there were 468 privies with covered middens, and 30 with open middens. There are still 11 pail closets. There were then 182.

SCAVENGING.

This is done by the Council, under the supervision of the Surveyor. A weekly collection of house refuse is made throughout the District.

The amount collected averages 5,500 loads per annum, and is tipped at the Sewage Outfall Works, where the paper and other light rubbish is burned.

The nightsoil is collected every 6 weeks, during the night-time.

The future method of disposing of house refuse is engaging the attention of the Council.

The number of moveable ashbins with proper coverings substituted for fixed receptacles during 1921-1925, is 176.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Return made by the Sanitary Inspector, in accordance with Article XIX. (12) of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1922.

No. of Inspections	...	...	...	687
No. of Informal Notices served	...	...		309
No. of Informal Notices complied with	...			255
No. of Statutory Notices served	...	...		54
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	...			42

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The Bentley Colliery is chiefly responsible for the dense black smoke emitted in the District. No action has been taken by the Council. Public opinion on the matter cannot be said to exist. The Council has taken steps to abate a nuisance from dense black smoke emitted from the coppers of a wire annealer works, and this nuisance has in fact been abated.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are 18 shops, and they have been inspected 46 times.

Of these, 9 on inspection have been found with defects, these being mostly the emission of offensive smell during frying.

SCHOOLS.

There are five Public Elementary Schools in the District. The West Riding County Council are the Education Authority.

There is an ancient Elementary School at Arksey, endowed in 1666, and consisting of a Mixed Department with accommodation for 120 children. Some are accommodated in the original building, and some in a newly-erected Corrugated Iron Structure. A supply of water is laid on from the public main. Privies are provided.

The other Schools are all modern buildings, the oldest erected in 1877, and the latest in 1914.

1.—BENTLEY COOKE STREET, built in 1877, consists of a Mixed and Infant Department, with accommodation for 228 and 106 respectively. There is water from the public supply laid on; the sanitary accommodation consists of W.C. and troughs. The school occupies a rather cramped and noisy "island site."

2.—BENTLEY ROAD COUNCIL, built 1910-1911, consists of a Senior Mixed Department housed in a fine modern building, a Junior Mixed and an Infant Department, the latter being accommodated in Corrugated Iron Buildings with accommodation for 360, 200 and 150 respectively. The sanitary accommodation consists of W.C., and there are lavatories. Water from the public supply is laid on. This school is placed on an excellent site off the Main Road—away from the noise and traffic. The building embodies all the modern ideas of light and ventilation. A new permanent structure of brick faced with stone is in course of erection, and will be ready for occupation in 1926, when the present Iron Structures, which have been the subject of many well-founded complaints in the past, will be done away with.

3.—BENTLEY NEW VILLAGE COUNCIL SCHOOL, built in 1913, is a fine handsome building of brick and stone, built on the quadrangular plan. There is a wooden hut in the schoolyard to provide further temporary accommodation. There are Boys', Girls' and Infants' Departments, with accommodation for 420, 330 and 370 children respectively. The drainage, water supply, lavatory, and W.C. accommodation are excellent. The school was seriously infested with rats during the year, notwithstanding an organised effort to get rid of them.

The Assembly Halls of this School are used as overflow class rooms owing to the large number of children to be accommodated. There are large asphalted playgrounds attached.

4.—TOLL BAR COUNCIL SCHOOL, built in 1914, is a fine building of brick and stone, built facing the Doncaster and Selby main road. There are Mixed and Infant (Standard 1) Department, with accommodation for 292 and 222 respectively. The drainage, water supply, lavatory and W.C. accommodation are excellent. There are asphalted playgrounds and a playing field immediately behind the School. There is only one criticism of this School: its position on a Main Arterial Road. Schools should of choice be built in quieter streets, and where children are not so exposed to the danger inherent to modern mechanic traffic. The modern schools are everything that can be desired, but the accommodation of all of them is overtaxed by the influx of families with a large number of young children flocking into the district. The County Medical Officer of Health is the School Medical Officer responsible through his staff for the medical inspection of school children, and is responsible for the closure of schools. The local Authority disinfect the Schools as and when required.

Section 4.

HOUSING.

1. GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

1.—GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.—

These, apart from overcrowding, are good.

There are a few old stone houses, which are worn out, and would have been closed long ago but for the great shortage of houses. These are to be found in Arksey and in Bentley Old Village. The district has developed around certain centres:—

- (1) Bentley Old Village.
- (2) Bentley Road.
- (3) Bentley New Village.
- (4) Victoria Road.
- (5) Toll Bar.
- (6) Arksey.

BENTLEY OLD VILLAGE :—

Contains a few very old limestone houses, at Little London, Chapel Street, and Cooke Street. The others are good substantial brick houses, well built, and as a whole in a good state of repair, with thorough ventilation.

BENTLEY ROAD AREA :—

Comprising all the houses to the south-west of the L. and N.W. Railway, are all substantial brick houses with good ventilation, provided with Corporation water, and with W.C. and ashbins. The houses are built in in terraces and avenues, and represent the high-water mark of privately-built houses prior to 1914.

BENTLEY NEW VILLAGE :—

Was laid out and built by the Colliery Company for their work-people. The lay-out is in blocks of six houses, with plenty of air space. The mark a distinct advance both in lay-out and design.

VICTORIA ROAD SITE :—

Includes all the houses up to Askern Road. Its development is due to the Council.

The Askern Road Housing Scheme was held up by the war, after 90 houses had been completed. After the war the Ministry refused permission to complete the scheme with ten houses, as originally designed, and only allowed six houses in pairs to be erected on the unoccupied site. I think the Askern Road houses and the lay-out compare very well with the succeeding scheme. There is an appearance of good material and good workmanship about them which is very pleasing.

After the war, 200 houses were built by the Council on the Victoria Road Site, and 74 at Arksey. It was the intention at the time that these latter should house some of the people who would be displaced when some of the very old houses at Arksey were closed, but, owing to the demand for houses, this intention had to be abandoned.

The Arksey houses were built by direct labour, under the direction of the newly-formed Guild. The Council have built since then 80 houses in the Avenue, 20 in Victoria Road, 24 houses in Askern Road, 16 in Laburnum Place. The houses are built in pairs, and ten to the acre.

TOLL BAR :—

Includes all the new houses lying north-west of the Hull and Barnsley Railway. They are built in streets and rows, and were

built by private builders prior to the war. Public water is laid on to the houses, and W.C.'s and bins are provided. The type of house is not so good as those erected at Bentley Road.

2.—EXTENT OF SHORTAGE.

(a) There always has been a shortage of houses. It is difficult to estimate the number still required, as in addition to the workmen employed at the Bentley Colliery, there are a number of workmen who find employment at the Doncaster Plant Works and other callings.

(b) The Council contemplate erecting 150 houses in the near future at Scawthorpe.

(c) The mid-year population, 1921, was 13,290; in 1925 it is 14,940. The influx of mining population still continues; there does not appear to be any limit at present to the number of men that the local collieries can set on. Owing to the fleet of Ford and Morris 'buses which convey miners to their work at the different pits, the miner now may live many miles away from the pit he works at. In other words the miner has a great choice of where he shall reside. This makes the matter of gauging the number of houses to be provided very difficult.

(II). OVERCROWDING.

1. There is still a lot of over-crowding, and has been long before the War. The worst was during the year immediately after, but now I think that the consensus of opinion amongst those entitled to judge, that it is not so acute now as then.

CAUSES.

2. Influx of colliers and their families in search of work.

MEASURES TAKEN TO DEAL WITH IT.

3. The Council have built 580 houses since 1920.
4. Six cases. Notices served to abate nuisance by getting rid of lodgers.

(III.) FITNESS OF HOUSES.

1. (a) General standard of houses satisfactory; brick "through," with W.C. and ashbins, and public water laid-on. Hot and cold water laid-on in new type with baths. New houses in pairs, and about 10 to the acre.
- (b) Defects found.—Burnt out and defective kitchen grates; plaster fallen off; rain and down-spout running occasionally; sash-cords broken, and damp walls; defective yard paving.
- (c) Principal Causes.—Due to neglect to keep property in proper repair on the part of the owners.

2. GENERAL ACTION TAKEN AS REGARDS UNFIT HOUSES.

- (a) Inspection on complaint; schedule of defects reported to Council, and forward to owner.
- (b) Houses inspected as required by the Inspection of District Regulations, and records kept and submitted to the Council for their necessary action.

3. Difficulty in remedying unfitness.—None up to now.

(IV.) UNHEALTHY AREAS.—None.

(V.) BYE-LAWS RELATING TO HOUSES, ETC., TENTS, VANS, ETC.

- 1. Working of existing bye-laws. New bye-law re keeping pigs within 50 feet of any dwellinghouse, was enforced after representation from the County Council.
- 2. As to need of new bye-laws.—None.

(VI.) GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

There are a number of van dwellers. These people are not the ordinary type of van dwellers roaming the country, but have occupied the same van, on the same standing, for years.

The Council should insist on a standard to which all should comply, and as vans are to be regarded as temporary buildings, after the decision in the High Court in *Keeling v. the Wirral R.D.C.*, a plan should be submitted to and approved by the Council, and they should only be licensed for a term of years.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

- (a) Total, 158.
- (b) With State Assistance under the Housing Act :—
 - I. By the Local Authority, 96.
 - II. By other bodies or persons, 62.

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES. (Inspection).

- 1. Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).—54.
- 2. Number of dwellinghouses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.—1.
- 3. Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.—0.
- 4. Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.—1.

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority.—39.

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(A) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925.

1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.—15.
2. Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :
 - (a) By Owners.—11.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners.—Nil.
3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close.—Nil.

(B) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.—Nil.
2. Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :
 - (a) By Owners.—Nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners.—Nil.

(C) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 11, 14 AND 15 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925.

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.—Nil.
2. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.—Nil.
3. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwellinghouses having been rendered fit.—Nil.
4. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.—Nil.
5. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.—Nil.

Section 5.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**MILK SUPPLY.**

The supply is wholesome, the arrangements for distribution and supply adequate.

Samples of milk were taken by the officers of the West Riding County Council.

The cowsheds are regularly inspected. The structural conditions of many of the sheds have much to be desired—the practical difficulty is that the cost of any structural alterations falls on the occupier. The owners who have been approached decline to spend money on the sheds, on the grounds that the farms are not let to the tenants as dairy farms.

The occupiers, under difficult conditions, in some cases, are doing what they can to maintain a reasonable standard of cleanliness.

Number of Cowkeepers ...	...	32
Number of Retailers ...	...	31
Number of Inspections ...	...	99

The County Council administered the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, relating to action taken as to Tuberculous Cattle and Milk, and the Licences granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

MEAT.

The Sanitary Inspector is the officer designated under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, to whom notices of slaughter should be sent. The local butchers were circularised before the order came into force of what they were required to do. These slaughter-houses are inspected weekly, at the regular hours of slaughter, and on notices of occasional slaughter.

There is no public slaughter-house in the district, and only three privately-owned licensed ones.

These are all of modern construction, built for the purpose, and are well conducted.

There has been one prosecution under the Meat Regulations, 1924, which was successful. In this case the defendant had continued to use, after repeated warning, an old and unsuitable farm building in which to store his meat.

Twenty-two shops have been inspected, as well as 16 motor and other kinds of meat vans, and the necessary alterations to make them comply with the requirements of the Order have been made by the owners.

There is no Open-air Market in Bentley.

The Officer has made 212 inspections under the Order.

Private Slaughter Houses.

		1920.	Jan., 1925.	Dec., 1925.
Registered	... ..	—	—	—
Licensed	... ..	2	3	3
		—	—	—
Total	... ..	2	3	3
		—	—	—

BAKEHOUSES.

The number on the Register is 12, but only 9 were in use at the close of the year.

With one exception they are suitable buildings, and the exception is a modern bakery in an old converted cottage. However, this is to be rectified, and a new building is to be erected.

They are kept in a satisfactory condition.

OTHER FOODS—FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are 18 on the Register, and they are under the control of the Bye-Laws regulating Offensive Trades.

On inspection the matters requiring to be dealt with were attention to cleanliness and the prevention of offensive vapours during frying. As most of them are provided with modern stoves this difficulty should be overcome by greater care on the part of the proprietors.

Section 6.**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.****INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.**

1921-1925.

SMALL-POX.

The first case recorded was notified on August 25th, 1922, and the last case that year on December 22nd. There were 16 cases in all, 13 of whom had never been vaccinated, and the other 3 had been vaccinated only in infancy.

The disease was mild, and there were no deaths. The disease came, I have reason to believe, from the mining districts of Derbyshire—with whom there is a constant intercourse. There has been no change in the type of Small-pox as far as my experience goes. All the cases were removed to Hospital.

The outbreak of Small-pox was the subject of a Special Report to the Council under date December 28th, and is printed as an appendix to the Annual Report of 1922. In 1923, 77 cases were notified and removed to Hospital. The first was notified on January 1st, and the last on December 4th. 62 cases were unvaccinated, and 15 have been vaccinated at one time or another.

The Disease was mild, and there were no deaths. No cases

have been notified in 1924 and 1925. The procedure on notification was :—

- 1st—Notification of the various Authorities concerned.
- 2nd—Removal of patient to hospital.
- 3rd—Vaccination to all contacts where willing.
- 4th—Supervision of all contacts for sixteen days.
- 5th—Disinfection of infected premises.

Formalin was used.

The Medical Officer vaccinated upwards of fifty contacts during the outbreak.

Infantile vaccination is still neglected, only 71 primary vaccinations having been performed in 1925.

SCARLET FEVER.

Only 5 and 12 cases were notified in 1921 and 1922, but in 1923 50 cases were notified, and 39 were removed to the Isolation Hospital. The attack-rate per 1,000 was 3.5.

The disease was very mild, and there were no deaths. It was most prevalent in the first quarter of the year, when 24 cases were notified, and was widely disseminated throughout the District, 28 streets being invaded—in three instances—more than one case came from the household.

In 1924, 21 cases were notified, and 20 were removed to hospital. The attack-rate per 1,000 was 1.4. There were no deaths.

The milk supply has not been found responsible for the prevalence of Scarlet Fever. There has been no trial of the Dick test for Scarlet Fever.

DIPHtheria.

In 1921, and the two following years, the cases notified were 10, 12 and 8 respectively. In 1924, 24 cases were notified, and 21 removed to hospital, the attack-rate per 1,000 was 2.3, and there were 2 deaths. 28 of the cases notified were in the Fourth Quarter, most amongst the children attending the Girls' and Infants' Departments of the New Village Schools. The throats of the children attending these Departments were examined and swabbed. The County Council Bacteriologist reported that 12 "positive" results had been obtained. The children affected were excluded from school, and were not readmitted until negative reports were received after treatment.

There were 2 deaths, and the attack rate per 1,000 was 2.3.

I think that swabbing the throats of the children to discover "carriers" was useful in checking the outbreak.

There has been no trial of the Schick Test for Diphtheria.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Two cases were notified in 1921, and 1 in 1924. The latter case was an importation from an outside district. The immunity from Enteric Fever is very remarkable.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Only two cases have been notified during 1921-1925. One in 1921, and another in 1925,

During this period there were 1,931 births — equal to an attack-rate per 1,000 births of 1.03, a figure which I think reflects great credit on the doctors and midwives. There was one death.

OPHTHALMIA NIONUTORUM.

During 1921—1925, only three cases have been notified, and those were in the last-named year. This is a disease practically unknown.

Of the Infectious Diseases affecting the Central Nervous System, namely, Cerebro Spinal Fever, Encephalitis Lethargica, and Acute Poliomyelitis, there have been an odd one or two.

In 1921 only two cases of Cerebro Spinal Fever were notified, with one death.

In 1924 one case only of Encephalitis Lethargica was notified, with no death.

In 1925, three cases of Acute Poliomyelitis were notified, with no deaths.

The majority of Infectious cases notified have been Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and in 1922 and 1925 Small-pox. The procedure adopted in controlling Infectious Disease is removal of the patient to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Conisborough, and disinfection and spraying of the infected premises and contents, using Formalin.

In 1922 the Medical Officer of Health brought to the notice of the Council the desirability of providing a steam disinfecting apparatus, but the matter went no further. Disinfectants are provided by the Council, and issued free of cost to responsible persons on application to the Sanitary Inspector's office.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1925 :

DISEASE	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths.
1. Small Pox	nil	nil	nil
2. Scarlet Fever	73	72	nil
3. Diphtheria	67	62	7
4. Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	nil	nil	nil
5. Puerperal Fever	1	1	1
6. Pneumonia	15	nil	—
Other Diseases generally notifiable—			
7. Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	3	nil	nil
8. Erysipelas	3	nil	—
9. Poliomyelitis	3	nil	nil

SCARLET FEVER.

Seventy-three cases were notified, as compared with twenty-one last year.

The Disease was of a mild character, and was most prevalent in the 3rd and 4th quarters, namely, 23 and 30 respectively. It was widely disseminated in 37 streets, etc. Generally speaking, it was most prevalent in the New Village during the 3rd quarter.

Two (and once three) cases were notified from eight households.

No trial of Dick's Test for Scarlet Fever has been made.

The Attack Rate per 1,000 was 4.8.

There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA.

Sixty-seven cases were notified, as compared with thirty-four last year.

During the 1st quarter 9 cases were notified, and 6, 36 and 16 in the following quarters respectively.

All but five cases were removed to Hospital.

The Attack Rate per 1,000 was 4.4.

There were seven deaths.

The prevalence of Diphtheria was the subject of a Special Report presented to the Council, dated October 14th, 1925, and reprinted as an appendix to this Report.

No trial of Schick's Test for Diphtheria has been made.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

One case was notified in the 1st quarter—a married woman. She was removed to the Doncaster Royal Infirmary, where she died.

The Attack Rate per 1,000 Births was 2.4.

PNEUMONIA.

Fifteen cases were notified, as follows, in the 1st and 4th quarters: 6 and 8 respectively.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Three cases were notified.

The Attack Rate per 1,000 Births was 7.4.

There were no cases of impaired vision, and no deaths.

ERYSIPELAS.

There were three cases notified, and no deaths.

POLIOMYELITIS.

All three cases were notified in August. Two were from one house—father aged 25, and infant daughter aged 6 months. Both legs of the father were affected, the left but slightly, and the left leg of the infant,

The third case was a male infant aged 10 months, whose left shoulder and upper arm were affected.

There were no deaths at the time of writing this Report.

It is reported that the father is receiving treatment at the Royal Infirmary, Doncaster. One leg is now better, but the other is still affected in some degree, and he is able to get about. His infant daughter is also receiving treatment, and the affected left limb is slightly better.

The third case is also receiving treatment at the Royal Infirmary. The left shoulder is still slightly affected, but he can use his arm. Recovery from paralysis is exceedingly slow, even under Hospital treatment. This is an unfortunate occurrence after this disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1925.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulm.		Non-Pulm.		Pulm.		Non-Pulm.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
10	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	1
15	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
20	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25	2	3	—	—	2	1	—	—
35	2	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
45	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	9	8	2	5	4	6	—	1

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No case of Tuberculous Employee in the Milk Trade was notified, and no occasion for action under Article 3, 5 and 6 has arisen.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925 (SECTION 62).

One case of Puerperal Sepsis was notified on March 21st, and removal of a Tuberculous Patient to Sanatorium.

The notification of Tuberculosis is efficiently done.

Seventeen Primary notifications of Pulmonary and seven of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were received. Of these 8 were notified by the Tuberculosis Officer, 9 by Private Practitioners, and 7 by both Private Practitioners and Tuberculosis Officer,

There were 62 cases in the Tuberculosis Register on December 31st, 1925, namely, Pulmonary Cases, 29 Males and 17 Females; non-Pulmonary Cases, 10 Males and 6 Females.

There is a Care Committee of Ladies working on a voluntary basis in conjunction with the Red Cross and the local Tuberculosis Officer. The Committee make and supply night wear and under-clothing for necessitous cases on admission to Sanatorium.

Section 7.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

One case of Puerperal Sepsis was notified on March 21st, and was removed to the Doncaster Royal Infirmary, where she died.

The Attack Rate per 1,000 Births was 2.4.

Six deaths were directly due to child-bearing, one due to Eclampsia at the Royal Infirmary; the other causes being Placenta Prævia, Inversion of Uterus, Pulmonary Embolism, Post Partum Hæmorrhage, and Confinement (Mitral Disease of the Heart).

The County Council have arranged for the Edenfield Private Maternity Home, Doncaster, to admit patients from the District.

The fees are £3 5s. 0d. per week, in addition to the Medical Practitioners' fee. This arrangement is working satisfactorily.

The County Council make contribution on a sliding scale of income. They have arranged for the admission of mothers, with or without their babies, to St. Anne's Convalescent Home, Bridlington, on a three weeks' visit. The fees vary from £3 10s. 0d. to £5 5s. 0d. Mothers only are received at the Southport Convalescent Home for a similar period for £2 5s. 0d.

Children from 3 to 5 years of age are received into the Children's Convalescent Home, Filey Road, Scarborough. The fees are 17s. per week. The County Council contribute towards the cost on a sliding scale.

There are four trained midwives practising in the District, and two bona fide ones.

This provision appears to be adequate.

Three cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum have been notified, all by medical practitioners.

There were no deaths.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM, 1925.

CASES			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Death
Notified	Treated at Home	Treated at Hospital				
3	3	—	3	—	—	nil

CAUSES OF DEATH.

1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.						Males.	Females.
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	90	66
1.	Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	2
4.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	5	2
7.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	2	2
8.	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	4	6
11.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	1
12.	Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	2	5
13.	Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	—
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	2	3
16.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	8	8
17.	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	2	1
18.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	2
19.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	10	7
20.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1
21.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	—	—
22.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	2	—
23.	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
24.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	—	1
25.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	2
26.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	1
27.	Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	...	...	—	5
28.	Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion, Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	12	5
29.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	4	1
30.	Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	7	—
31.	Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	23	10
32.	Causes ill defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	—	1
Special causes (included above)							
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925, for the Urban District of Bentley-with-Arksey.

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisance

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	25	1	Nil
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	17	Nil	Nil
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total	42	1	Nil

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	Nil	—	}	
Want of ventilation		—		
Overcrowding		—		
Want of drainage of floors		—		
Other nuisances	—	—	}	Nil
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient	1	Under consideration		
{ unsuitable or defective	Nil			
{ not separate for sexes	Nil			
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	Nil		}	
Other offences	Nil			
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order 1921.)				
Total	1	Nil	--	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, of the Factory and Workshop Act 1901,
as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

(Signature) A. B. DUNNE, M.B., B.C. Cantab.

March 1st, 1926.

Medical Officer of Health.

Appendix to the Annual Report, 1925.

Special Report on the Prevalence of Diphtheria.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council
of Bentley-with-Arksey.**

14th October, 1925.

GENTLEMEN,

As requested by the Minister of Health in his letter dated the 10th October, I beg to present a report on the occurrence of Diphtheria in your District.

This year, up to the week ending 3rd October, 50 notifications have been received, namely, in January, 4; February, 2; March, 3; April, 2; May, 1; June, 2; July, 10; August, 10; and September, 16. It will be seen that during the last three months no fewer than 36 cases have been reported. There have been 5 deaths; 28 cases amongst females, and 22 amongst males. There have always been cases of diphtheria notified in Bentley. Since it obtained urban powers in 1911, as will be seen by the subjoined table, the attack rate has fluctuated from 0.5 up to 2.5 per 1,000. In the years of maximum attack (1913 and 1916) I have alluded to certain causes on pages 16 and 17 in the Annual Report for 1913, and on pages 28 and 29 in the Annual Report for 1916, one of which, namely, overcrowding I think is again a serious contributory factor this year, when I have reason to believe a more virulent "strain" of diphtheria has been introduced.

The district is a coal mining one, with an estimated population of 14,430, which, I think, is much too low. There are approximately 3,100 houses, all, with very few exceptions, built of brick and are of a good modern type, mostly provided with water closets and covered ashbins. The district is efficiently sewered and provided with outfall works, which are now overtaxed by the increased volume of sewage, due to activity in house building. New extensions of the sewerage outfall works are now in progress. All the sewage has to be pumped, the district lying in a flat alluvial plain, the general level being from 25 feet to 35 feet above O.D. The subsoil is clay, lying above gravel and running sand, and, although coal is being worked in the district and subsidences have taken place, none have occurred in the New Village.

Certain facts emerge when the notifications are studied. First, the New Village Ward supplies 36 cases out of the whole; secondly, 31 cases are children of school age; thirdly, all these children, with four exceptions, attend the Girls' and Infants' Departments of the New Village School which serves the New Village Ward. These schools were built just before the war, on modern lines, with large classrooms and assembly hall for each department. Owing to the very rapid growth of the school population, the latter halls are now regularly used as classrooms, as well as a wooden hut in the schoolyard. The accommodation of these two departments, I am informed, is: Girls, 310; Infants, 370; while the numbers on roll are 455 and 467 respectively. Complaint was made to me that the premises are infested with rats, and although attempts have been made to rid the schools of these pests, they have been ineffective. The above facts led me to believe that perhaps there might be "carriers" in the above departments, and in September I had a conference with the Heads of the departments, when the matter was fully discussed and tentative arrangements were made to swab the throats of scholars should cases continue to be notified. Dr. Kaye, the County M.O.H., kindly undertook to provide the necessary swabs and to report upon them. On Monday, the 5th October, with the assistance of Dr. Lawrence, Assistant County M.O.H., I swabbed the throats of 750 scholars. The County Laboratory reported as "positive" 21 of the scholars. These have been excluded from school, and are now being treated and kept under observation, and further swabs are to be taken from time to time until a "negative" report is received. During the examination of the 750 children only in two cases were suspicious throats seen, and these would be classed clinically as "follicular tonsillitis"; but there are an unusual number of children with enlarged tonsils, and on a re-swabbing of throats of 14 of the "positive" cases no fewer than 7 had enlarged tonsils.

The procedure which is followed in the case of notifications of diphtheria is as follows:—

The Medical Practitioner usually notifies the case by telephone prior to the usual written formal notification. This expedites matters, and saves valuable time in removing the cases to hospital. The hospital is forthwith notified over the telephone, and the case removed by motor ambulance to the Isolation Hospital at Conisborough. The house, as far as is possible, and sick room and its contents in every case, are disinfected by formalin spray or lamp. Literature is left with the parents; warning notices are posted in the district and disinfectants supplied. The disinfection by formalin is the method which is used in the absence of a steam disinfectant, the proposal to provide one some years ago not having materialised. Anti-toxin is provided by the Council, and supplied to all Medical practitioners free for curative and preventive purposes. The schools were disinfected before the children re-assembled after the summer vacation.

I have discussed with local practitioners of wide experience and long standing in the district the present outbreak, and they tell me that they have never seen quite the same type before. Some of the cases are severe, and there is visible and unmistakable membrane present. These gentlemen also point to the great influx of workpeople and their families in search of work from all parts of the kingdom, and that many of them are in lowered health, and this, along with the overcrowding of the houses, renders the spread of diphtheria easy. Enquiries show that in 16 cases there were two or more families in one house.

The milk supply was carefully inquired into, and as a result I do not think that the outspread of diphtheria could in any way be attributed to it.

The factors chiefly responsible for the prevalence of diphtheria, in my opinion, are: the great influx of workpeople and their families from all parts of the country, which results in the overcrowding of the houses and the aggregation of a large number of children in the schools.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Dr. Kaye, the County M.O.H., for kindly putting at our disposal the resources of the County Laboratory, and to Dr. Lawrence for his assistance in the work of swabbing the children's throats; also the Head and Assistant Teachers of the Girls' and Infants' Departments of the New Village Schools, who were most helpful, and I wish to thank them. Your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Jepson, has been most assiduous in the discharge of his duties.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. B. DUNNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Table I.

Cases notified from the formation of the Urban District
to date.

YEARS	CASES NOTIFIED	ATTACK RATE per thousand
1911	7	0'75
1912	7	0'83
1913	24	2'37
1914	21	1'75
1915	14	1'25
1916	28	2'50
1917	17	1'50
1918	22	1'70
1919	7	0'52
1920	18	1'20
1921	10	0'70
1922	12	0'80
1923	8	0'50
1924	34	2'30
1925	50	—

Table No. II.—Cases Notified during the Year to Week ended 3rd October, 1925.

No.	Date of Notification.	Initials.	Age.	Sex.	STREET.	WARD.	SCHOOL (if any).	Department.
1	3 January	C. M. B.	3	M	Stockbridge Avenue	Bentley Road	—	—
2	3 January	E. M. B.	19	F	47, The Avenue	New Village	—	—
3	8 January	R. C.	14	F	64, West End Avenue	Bentley Road	Bentley Road	Girls
4	9 January	D. M.	3	F	12, Concy Road	Toll Bar	Toll Bar	Girls
5	4 February	E. M.	4	M	63, Church Street	Old Bentley	—	—
6	10 February	A. W.	14	M	225, Bentley Road	Bentley Road	—	—
7	7 March	A. C.	4	M	18, Tennyson Road	New Village	—	—
8	14 March	B. C.	6	M	55, Church Street	Old Bentley	Bentley Central	Infants
9	25 March	L. E.	8	M	71, Bentley Road	Bentley Road	Bentley Road	Girls
10	15 April	L. H.	6	M	42, Chapel Street	Old Bentley	Bentley Central	Infants
11	21 April	A. H.	20	F	Scawthorpe	Bentley Road	—	—
12	20 May	E. H.	8	F	170, Askern Road	New Village	New Village	Girls
13	11 June	C.	30	F	1, Daw Lane	New Village	—	—
14	28 June	D. M.	13	F	59, Balfour Road	New Village	New Village	Girls
15	8 July	G. W.	11	F	65, Denby Street	New Village	New Village	Girls
16	8 July	F. M.	10	F	36, Daw Lane	New Village	New Village	Girls
17	8 July	P. G.	8	M	49, Balfour Road	New Village	New Village	Boys
18	13 July	J. M.	4	M	54, Balfour Road	New Village	—	—
19	15 July	W. M.	10	M	54, Balfour Road	New Village	New Village	Boys
20	22 July	W. H.	4	M	46, Balfour Road	New Village	—	—
21	22 July	R. H.	3½	F	56, Balfour Road	New Village	—	—
22	23 July	D. H.	10	F	47, Cooke Street	Old Bentley	Bentley Central	Mixed
23	27 July	F. S.	4½	M	Millgate	Old Bentley	—	—
24	27 July	G. W.	12	F	35, Balfour Road	New Village	New Village	Girls
25	6 August	W. J.	4	M	57, Watch House Lane	Bentley Road	—	—
26	10 August	T. C.	2	M	28, Rosslyn Crescent	New Village	—	—
27	11 August	A. L.	4	M	163, Askern Road	New Village	—	—
28	11 August	J. J.	6	M	27, Asquith Road	New Village	—	—
29	13 August	J. B.	3	F	177, Askern Road	New Village	New Village	Infants
30	17 August	G. M.	3	F	2, Rosedale Road	New Village	—	—
31	17 August	G. S.	6	M	29, Cawdor Street	New Village	New Village	Infants
32	21 August	F. D.	25	M	109, Victoria Road	New Village	—	—
33	28 August	L. M.	6	F	57, Balfour Road	New Village	New Village	Infants
34	31 August	O. B.	11	F	7, Askern Road	New Village	New Village	Girls
35	2 September	E. B.	22	F	7, Askern Road	New Village	New Village	Boys
36	2 September	R. M.	11	M	108, The Avenue	New Village	New Village	Girls
37	7 September	M. J.	8	F	43, Daw Lane	New Village	—	—
38	8 September	F. B.	14	F	7, Askern Road	New Village	New Village	Boys
39	16 September	D. K.	10	F	187, The Avenue	New Village	New Village	Girls
40	18 September	W. B.	8	M	5, George Street	New Village	—	—
41	21 September	P. A. B.	13	F	7, Askern Road	Bentley Road	New Village	Girls
42	21 September	D. U.	18	F	16, West End Avenue	New Village	New Village	Boys
43	23 September	J. W.	6	F	18, Arthur Street	Bentley Road	New Village	Girls
44	23 September	A. D.	5	M	74, Royston Avenue	New Village	New Village	Infants
45	25 September	R. L.	14	F	40, Fisher Street	New Village	Bentley Road	Infants
46	26 September	M. G.	6	F	60, Asquith Road	New Village	Doncaster H.S.	Girls
47	26 September	W. G.	7	M	60, Asquith Road	New Village	New Village	Infants
48	26 September	D. R. M.	6½	F	9, Radcliffe Road	New Village	New Village	Infants
49	29 September	G. M. B.	6	F	15, Hawthorne Grove	New Village	New Village	Infants
50	29 September	O. L.	5	F	2, Ansdell Road	New Village	New Village	Infants

Table III.

SUMMARY OF TABLE II.

Ages	Sex M. F.		Wards	Schools	Departments			Total
					B.	G.	I.	
School age 31	11	20	New Village ... 36	New Village ...	4	9	10	23
Under do.... 11	8	3	Bentley Road .. 8	Bentley Road ...	—	2	1	3
Above do.... 8	3	5	Old Bentley ... 5	Old Bentley ...	1	—	2	3
			Toll Bar ... 1	Toll Bar 	—	1	—	1
				Doncaster H.S. ...	—	1	—	1
Totals ... 50	22	28	50		5	13	13	31

